

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace Claims 1 and 9 with the following:

Claim 1

1. A wafer boat for supporting silicon wafers, the wafer boat comprising:
a ceramic body having at least one wafer support structure sized to support a silicon wafer thereon;
a ceramic coating disposed on a surface of the wafer support structure, the ceramic coating having an impurity migration preventing thickness and a wafer contact surface, the wafer contact surface having a post-coating surface finish;
wherein the post coating surface finish of the wafer contact surface substantially prevents slip in the silicon wafers and is less than or substantially equal to 1 micron.

Claim 9

9. The wafer boat of Claim 1 wherein the ceramic coating has an impurity level of substantially 1 ppm or less.

Please add new Claims 28-32 as follows:

Claim 28 (New)

28. The wafer boat of Claim 1 wherein the wafer contact surface is less than or substantially equal to 1/2 of the surface area of the wafer.

Claim 29 (New)

29. The wafer boat of Claim 28 comprising:
a base;
a plurality of support rods extending generally upwards from the base, each support rod including at least one arm extending generally inwardly relative to the base, each arm having the post coating surface finish disposed thereon.

Claim 30 (New)

30. A wafer boat for supporting silicon wafers, the wafer boat comprising:
a ceramic body having at least one wafer support structure sized to support a silicon wafer thereon,
a ceramic coating disposed on a surface of the wafer support structure, the ceramic coating having an impurity migration preventing thickness and a wafer contact surface, the wafer contact surface having a post coating surface finish;
wherein the wafer contact surface is less than or substantially equal to 1/2 of the surface area of the wafer, and the post coating surface finish substantially prevents slip in the silicon wafer.

Claim 31 (New)

31. The wafer boat of Claim 30 wherein the post coating surface finish of the wafer contact surface is less than or substantially equal to 0.4 microns.

Claim 32 (New)

32. The wafer boat of Claim 30 comprising:
a base;
a plurality of support rods extending generally upwards from the base, each support rod including at least one arm extending generally inwardly relative to the base, each arm having the post coating surface finish disposed thereon.